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(74) Agent: ZACCO DENMARK A/S; Hans Bekkevolds Allé 7, DK-2900 Hellerup (DK).

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- 60/526,319 1 December 2003 (01.12.2003) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): UNI-VERSITY OF COPENHAGEN [DK/DK]: Faculty
- (72) Inventors: and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ANDREAS-SON, Erik [SE/DK]; Søllerødgade 28, 1.th., DK-2200 Copenhagen N (DK). BRODERSEN, Peter [DK/DK]; Grøntoften 6, 1.th., DK-2860 Søborg (DK). JENKINS, Tom [GB/DK]; Hospitalsvej 6, 1.th., DK-2000 Frederiksberg (DK). MUNDY, John [GB/DK]; Strindbergsvej 59, DK-2500 Valby (DK). PETERSEN, Nikolaj H.T. [DK/DK]; Tagensvej 52, vær. 522, DK-2200 Copenhagen N (DK). THORGRIMSEN, Stefan [DK/DK]; Kronprinsesse Sofiesvej 1, 1.tv., DK-2000 Frederiksberg (DK). ROCHER, Anne [FR/DK]; Dalgas Have 44 A, st.tv., DK-2000 Frederiksberg (DK).

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(57) Abstract: The invention provides a transgenic plant having increased expression of a positive regulator protein of systemic acquired resistance (SAR), thereby enhancing the SAR response and pathogen resistance of the plant. The positive regulator protein is a component of a signal transduction pathway leading to (SAR), and is a MAP kinase protein (MPK4) substrate, and interacts with transcription factors.